

**LIST OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT  
AND STANDARDS OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION**

Adopted by the Judicial Council of California

Effective January 1, 2003

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## Rule 35. Preparation, certification, and filing of record

(a) \* \* \*

- (b) **[Reporter's transcript]** Where a reporter's transcript is required, the clerk, immediately on the filing of the notice of appeal, shall notify the reporter. The notice shall be delivered to the reporter personally or to his or her office or internal mail receptacle; if the reporter is not employed by the court, the notice may be mailed. Except as provided in the next paragraph, the reporter shall prepare an original and the same number of clearly legible copies of the reporter's transcript as are required of the clerk's transcript by subdivision (a), in the manner and form required by rule 9, and shall append to the original and each copy a certificate that it is correct. The reporter shall deliver the original and all the copies to the clerk immediately on their completion, and in no case more than 20 days after the filing of the notice of appeal unless the time is extended as provided in subdivision (d).

When a judgment of death has been rendered against one or more of the defendants, one copy of the reporter's transcript shall be in computer-readable form conforming to the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 269(c). Disks shall be CD-ROM or standard 5.25- or 3.5-inch disks, and ~~shall be readable by computers that are compatible with IBM PC or with Apple Macintosh computers. In addition to conforming with the labeling requirements of section 269(c), 3.5-inch~~ disk labels shall state whether the disk is compatible with IBM-PC or with Apple Macintosh computers. This rule constitutes an order for a second copy of the transcript in computer-readable format ordered at the same time and by the same party as the original transcript, within the meaning of Government Code section 69954(b), and that copy is therefore to be paid for at one-third the rate otherwise provided for second copies.

Portions of the transcript that were prepared during the trial shall not be retyped unless necessary to correct errors. They shall be bound together with transcripts of any portions of the proceedings not previously transcribed and renumbered. If additional copies are needed, they shall be prepared by photocopying or an equivalent process and not by retyping.

One week after the deadline for filing the transcript, the clerk shall accept completed portions of the transcript from the lead reporter in a multireporter case even if not all portions of the transcript are completed. The clerk shall pay promptly each reporter who certifies under penalty of perjury that all of his or her portions of the transcript are completed.

*(Subd (b) amended effective January 1, 2003; previously amended effective January 1, 1959, July 1, 1971, January 1, 1985, July 1, 1990, January 1, 1992, January 1, 1995.)*

**(c)-(h) \* \* \***

*Rule 35 amended effective January 1, 2003; previously amended effective January 1, 1983, January 1, 1985, July 1, 1990, January 1, 1991, January 1, 1992, January 1, 1993, January 1, 1995, July 1, 1995, January 1, 1999, and January 1, 2000.*

**Rule 187.5. Experimental rule on use of recordings to facilitate settlement of statements**

**(a)-(b) \*\*\***

**(c) [Trial court clerk's duties]**

**(1)-(2) \*\*\***

- (3) Within ten days after the notice of appeal is filed, the clerk of the trial court shall prepare and label one ~~easette~~ copy of the original sound recording for each party and a copy for the court's file; the copies shall be on standard audio cassette tapes or on CD-ROM ~~playable at one and seven eights inches per second.~~
- (4) The clerk shall promptly mail a ~~easette~~ copy of the sound recording to counsel on appeal, if known to the clerk, for each party to the appeal. If the clerk has not received notice ~~et~~of the appointment or retention of counsel on appeal, the ~~easette~~ copy shall be mailed to trial counsel and to each party unrepresented at trial and on appeal. Each ~~easette~~ copy shall be accompanied by a copy of this Rule and an information leaflet published by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

*(Subd (c) amended effective January 1, 2003.)*

**(d) [Proposed statement]** Counsel for the appellant (or the appellant, if unrepresented at trial and on the appeal) shall prepare a proposed statement of the case which shall include:

- (1) A summary of the grounds of the appeal complying with rule 184(b).
- (2) A narrative statement summarizing the basic events in the case, and as much of the evidence and rulings of the court as are relevant to the appeal. Any portion of the statement may be in the form of a verbatim

transcription of the sound recording. The proposed statement shall, within 30 days after the mailing of the ~~easette~~ copy of the sound recording, be served on the opposing counsel of record or on the opposing party if unrepresented and filed in the trial court. If the proposed statement is not served and filed within that time, or any extension, the appellant may not proceed with the appeal unless relieved from the default.

*(Subd. (d) amended effective January 1, 2003.)*

**(e)-(h) \*\*\***

- (i) [Returning of copy easettes of the sound recording]** Upon signing a stipulated final statement, or upon receiving a copy of the judge's certificate resolving disputed issues, or upon receiving notice of the filing of the record in the reviewing court, or at the request of the reviewing court, trial counsel and any unrepresented party without counsel on appeal shall deliver the copy ~~easettes~~ of the sound recording to the clerk of the superior court appellate ~~department~~ division for the use of any counsel on appeal; or, if trial counsel is in the same law office as counsel on appeal, shall deliver the copy ~~easette~~ to counsel on appeal and promptly file a notice with the appellate ~~department~~ division stating that it has been delivered or will be delivered to counsel on appeal when the appeal is assigned.

*(Subd (i) amended effective January 1, 2003.)*

- (j)** In lieu of the clerk's record on appeal specified in rule 183, the clerk shall transmit to the reviewing court the complete trial court file on the case with a copy of all docket entries in the trial court. The original or a copy of the docket entries shall be retained in the trial court. The file copy ~~easette~~ of the sound recording shall be transmitted as part of the file.

*(Subd (j) amended effective January 1 2003.)*

**(k)-(m) \*\*\***

*Rule 187.5 amended effective January 1, 2003; adopted effective January 1, 1983.*

## **Rule 6.170. Working Group on Court Security**

- (a) [Composition and purpose]** The Judicial Council hereby establishes the Working Group on Court Security. As provided in Government Code section 69927(a)(1), the group shall consist of six representatives from the judicial

branch of government, as selected by the Administrative Director of the Courts, two representatives of the counties, as selected by the California State Association of Counties, and three representatives of the county sheriffs, as selected by the California State Sheriffs' Association. The working group may recommend modifications only to the template used to determine that the security costs submitted by the courts to the Administrative Office of the Courts are permitted pursuant to Article 8.5 of Chapter 5 of Title 8 of the Government Code. The template shall be a part of the trial court's financial policies and procedures manual and used in place of the definition of law enforcement costs in Function 8 of Rule 810 of the California Rules of Court.

**(b) [Security personnel]** If the working group determines that there is a need to make recommendations to the template that specifically involve law enforcement or security personnel in courtrooms or court detention facilities, the membership of the working group shall change and consist of six representatives from the judicial branch of government selected by the Administrative Director of the Courts, two representatives of the counties selected by the California State Association of Counties, two representatives of the county sheriffs selected by the California State Sheriffs' Association, and two representatives of labor selected by the California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations.

**(c) [Chair]** The Administrative Director of the Courts may designate one of the judicial branch members to be chair of the working group.

**(d) [Initial terms]**

(1) The initial terms of the members of the working group are as follows:

(A) Four years for two representatives of the judicial branch, one representative of the counties, and one representative of the county sheriffs.

(B) Three years for two representatives of the judicial branch, one representative of the counties, and one representative of the county sheriffs.

(C) Two years for two representatives of the judicial branch and one representative of the county sheriffs.

(2) The appointing authority may designate which members are appointed to two, three, and four year terms.

- (e) **[Terms]** After the initial terms of members of the working group as provided in subdivision (c), the terms of members are three years. The appointing authority may fill any vacancy occurring for the remainder of the term.

*Rule 6.170 adopted effective January 1, 2003.*

#### **Judicial Council Comment**

Subdivision (b) of the rule refers to a change in composition of the committee for reasons stated in that subdivision. The council interprets Government Code section 69927 to require the working group membership specified in subdivision (b) only when the working group is discussing the issues stated in that subdivision and the working group membership specified in subdivision (a) when the working group is discussing all other issues.

### **Rule 6.14. Litigation Management Committee**

- (a) **[Litigation oversight]** The Litigation Management Committee must oversee litigation and claims against trial court judges, appellate court justices, the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the trial and appellate courts, and the employees of those bodies that seek recovery of \$50,000 or more or raise important policy issues by:

- (1) Reviewing and approving any proposed settlement, stipulated judgment, or offer of judgment; and
- (2) Consulting with the Administrative Director or General Counsel, upon request, regarding important strategy issues.

*(Subd. (a) amended effective January 1, 2003.)*

- (b) **[Recommendations]** The committee must make recommendations to the Judicial Council for policies governing the management of litigation involving the courts.

- (c) **[Strategic decisions]** Upon presentation by the Office of the General Counsel of the written objection described in rule 6.202 (d), the committee must resolve the objection.

*(Subd. (c) adopted effective January 1, 2003.)*

*Rule 6.14 amended effective January 1, 2003; adopted effective January 1, 2001.*

## **CHAPTER 3. MANAGEMENT OF CLAIMS AND LITIGATION**

## **Rule 6.201. Claim and Litigation Procedure**

- (a) **[Definitions]** As used in this rule, “judicial branch entity” is as defined in Government Code section 900.3 and “judge” means a judge or justice of a judicial branch entity.
- (b) **[Procedure for action on claims]** To carry out the Judicial Council’s responsibility under Government Code section 912.7 to act on a claim, claim amendment, or application for leave to present a late claim against a judicial branch entity or a judge, the Office of the General Counsel of the Administrative Office of the Courts, under the direction of the Administrative Director of the Courts, must:
- (1) Upon receipt of a claim, claim amendment, or application for leave to present a late claim forwarded by a judicial branch entity, promptly consult with a representative of that entity about the merits of the claim, claim amendment, or application for leave to present a late claim;
  - (2) Grant or deny an application for leave to present a late claim under Government Code section 911.6(b);
  - (3) If determined by the Office of the General Counsel to be appropriate, refer a claim or claim amendment for further investigation to a claims adjuster or other investigator under contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts;
  - (4) Reject a claim if it is not a proper charge against the judicial branch entity or judge;
  - (5) Allow a claim in the amount justly due as determined by the Office of the General Counsel if it is a proper charge against the judicial branch entity and the amount is less than \$50,000; and
  - (6) Make recommendations to the Litigation Management Committee regarding proposed settlements of claims requiring payments of \$50,000 or more.
- (c) **[Allowance and payment of claims]** The following may allow and authorize payment of any claim arising out of the activities of a judicial branch entity or judge:

(1) The Office of the General Counsel, under the direction of the Administrative Director of the Courts, if the payment is less than \$50,000; or

(2) The Litigation Management Committee, for any claim.

**(d) [Settlement of lawsuits and payment of judgments]** The following may settle lawsuits, after consultation with the affected entity and any judge or employee being defended by the Judicial Council, and authorize payment of judgments arising out of the activities of a judicial branch entity or judge:

(1) The Office of the General Counsel, under the direction of the Administrative Director of the Courts, if the payment is less than \$50,000 and the lawsuit does not raise important policy issues; or

(2) The Litigation Management Committee, for any settlement or judgment.

*Rule 6.201 adopted effective January 1, 2003.*

## **Rule ~~6.800~~6.202. Claims and Litigation Management**

**(a) [Intent]** The intent of this rule is to (1) ensure that the trial and appellate courts are provided with timely, quality legal assistance, and (2) promote the cost-effective, prompt, and fair resolution of actions, proceedings, and claims that affect the trial and appellate courts and involve justices of the Courts of Appeal or the Supreme Court, trial court judges, subordinate judicial officers, court executive officers or administrators, or employees of the trial and appellate courts.

*(Subd (a) amended effective January 1, 2003.)*

**(b) [Duties of Office of the General Counsel]** To carry out the duty of the Judicial Council to provide for the representation, defense, and indemnification of justices of the Courts of Appeal or the Supreme Court, judges, subordinate judicial officers, court executive officers and administrators, and trial and appellate court employees pursuant to Part 1 (commencing with section 810) to Part 7 (commencing with section 995), inclusive, of the Government Code, the Office of the General Counsel of the Administrative Office of the Courts, under the direction of the Administrative Director of the Courts and the General Counsel, must:



- (1) Develop, manage, and administer a litigation management program for investigating and resolving all claims and lawsuits affecting the trial and appellate courts;
- (2) Provide legal assistance to the trial or appellate court, and to any justice, judge, subordinate judicial officer, court executive officer or administrator, and trial or appellate court employee who is named as a defendant or responsible party, subject to the defense and indemnification provisions of Part 1 (commencing with section 810) to Part 7 (commencing with section 995), inclusive, of the Government Code, upon receipt of notice of a claim or lawsuit affecting the trial or appellate court or of a dispute that is likely to result in a claim or lawsuit;
- (3) Select and direct any counsel retained to represent any trial or appellate court, justice, judge, subordinate judicial officer, court executive officer or administrator, and trial or appellate court employee being provided legal representation pursuant to paragraph (b)(2), after consultation with the trial or appellate court and any such individual defendant;
- (4) Make settlement decisions in all claims and lawsuits other than those identified in paragraph (b)(5), after consultation with the affected trial or appellate court, and any justice, judge, subordinate judicial officer, court executive officer or administrator, and trial or appellate court employee being provided legal representation pursuant to paragraph (b)(2);
- (5) Make recommendations to the Judicial Council Litigation Management Committee regarding proposed settlements of claims or lawsuits requiring payments of \$50,000 or more or raising important policy issues;
- (6) Develop and implement risk avoidance programs for the trial and appellate courts;
- (7) Provide an annual report to the Judicial Council Litigation Management Committee concerning the litigation management program; and
- (8) Provide an annual report to each trial and appellate court concerning claims and lawsuits filed against the trial or appellate court.

*(Subd. (b) amended effective January 1, 2003; previously amended effective July 1, 2002.)*

**(c) [Duties of trial and appellate courts]** The trial and appellate courts must:

- (1) Notify the Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of the General Counsel, promptly upon receipt of notice of a dispute that is likely to result in a claim or lawsuit, or of a claim or lawsuit filed, against the court, a justice, a judge or subordinate judicial officer, a court executive officer or administrator, or a court employee, and forward the claim and lawsuit to the Office of the General Counsel for handling; and
- (2) Consult with the Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of the General Counsel, regarding strategic and settlement decisions in claims and lawsuits.

*(Subd (c) amended effective January 1, 2003; previously amended effective July 1, 2002.)*

**(d) [Disagreements about major strategic decisions]** Following consultation with the Office of the General Counsel, a Presiding Judge or Administrative Presiding Justice may object to a proposed decision of the Office of the General Counsel about major strategic decisions, such as retention of counsel and proposed settlements, by presenting to the Office of the General Counsel a written statement of the objection. The Office of the General Counsel must present the written objection to the Litigation Management Committee, which will resolve the objection.

*(Subd (d) adopted effective January 1, 2003.)*

*Rule 6.202 renumbered effective January 1, 2003; adopted as rule 6.800 effective January 1, 2001; amended effective July 1, 2002.*

## **Rule 6.665. Subordinate Judicial Officers: Practice of Law**

A subordinate judicial officer may practice law only to the extent permitted by the Code of Judicial Ethics.

*Rule 6.665 adopted effective January 1, 2003.*

### **Comment**

Government Code section 69917, effective January 1, 2003, provides that “A subordinate judicial officer may not engage in the private practice of law except to the extent permitted by Judicial Council rules.”

## **DIVISION VI. Ethics Standards for Neutral Arbitrators in Contractual Arbitration**

## **Standard 1. Purpose, intent, and construction**

- (a) These standards are adopted under the authority of Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.85 and establish the minimum standards of conduct for neutral arbitrators who are subject to these standards. They are intended to guide the conduct of arbitrators, to inform and protect participants in arbitration, and to promote public confidence in the arbitration process.
- (b) For arbitration to be effective there must be broad public confidence in the integrity and fairness of the process. Arbitrators are responsible to the parties, the other participants, and the public for conducting themselves in accordance with these standards so as to merit that confidence.
- (c) These standards are to be construed and applied to further the purpose and intent expressed in subdivisions (a) and (b) and in conformance with all applicable law.
- (d) These standards are not intended to affect any existing civil cause of action or create any new civil cause of action.

### **Comment to Standard 1**

Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.85 provides that, beginning July 1, 2002, a person serving as a neutral arbitrator pursuant to an arbitration agreement shall comply with the ethics standards for arbitrators adopted by the Judicial Council pursuant to that section.

While the grounds for vacating an arbitration award are established by statute, not these standards, an arbitrator's violation of these standards may, under some circumstances, fall within one of those statutory grounds. (See Code Civ. Proc., § 1286.2.) A failure to disclose within the time required for disclosure a ground for disqualification of which the arbitrator was then aware is a ground for vacatur of the arbitrator's award. (See Code Civ. Proc., § 1286.2(a)(6)(A).) Violations of other obligations under these standards may also constitute grounds for vacating an arbitration award under section 1286.2(a)(3) if "the rights of the party were substantially prejudiced" by the violation.

While vacatur may be an available remedy for violation of these standards, these standards are not intended to affect any civil cause of action that may currently exist or create any new civil cause of action. These standards are also not intended to establish a ceiling on what is considered good practice in arbitration or to discourage efforts to educate arbitrators about best practices.

## **Standard 2. Definitions**

As used in these standards:

- (a) **[Arbitrator and neutral arbitrator]**

- (1) “Arbitrator” and “neutral arbitrator” mean any arbitrator who is subject to these standards and who is to serve impartially, whether selected or appointed:
- (A) Jointly by the parties or by the arbitrators selected by the parties;
  - (B) By the court, when the parties or the arbitrators selected by the parties fail to select an arbitrator who was to be selected jointly by them; or
  - (C) By a dispute resolution provider organization, under an agreement of the parties; ~~or~~
  - ~~(D) By any party acting alone, if all parties agree in writing that the unilaterally appointed arbitrator is to serve impartially.~~
- (2) Where the context includes events or acts occurring before an appointment is final, “arbitrator” and “neutral arbitrator” include a person who has been served with notice of a proposed nomination or appointment.
- (b) “Applicable law” means constitutional provisions, statutes, decisional law, California Rules of Court, and other statewide rules or regulations that apply to arbitrators who are subject to these standards.
- (c) “Conclusion of the arbitration” means the following:
- (1) When the arbitrator is disqualified or withdraws or the case is settled or dismissed before the arbitrator makes an award, the date on which the arbitrator’s appointment is terminated;
  - (2) When the arbitrator makes an award and no party makes a timely application to the arbitrator to correct the award, the final date for making an application to the arbitrator for correction; or
  - (3) When a party makes a timely application to the arbitrator to correct the award, the date on which the arbitrator serves a corrected award or a denial on each party, or the date on which denial occurs by operation of law.
- (d) “Consumer arbitration” means an arbitration conducted under a predispute arbitration provision contained in a contract that meets the criteria listed in paragraphs (1) through (3) below. “Consumer arbitration” excludes arbitration

proceedings conducted under or arising out of public or private sector labor-relations laws, regulations, charter provisions, ordinances, statutes, or agreements.

- (1) The contract is with a consumer party, as defined in these standards;
  - (2) The contract was drafted by or on behalf of the nonconsumer party; and
  - (3) The consumer party was required to accept the arbitration provision in the contract.
- (e) “Consumer party” is a party to an arbitration agreement who, in the context of that arbitration agreement, is any of the following:
- (1) An individual who seeks or acquires, including by lease, any goods or services primarily for personal, family, or household purposes including, but not limited to, financial services, insurance, and other goods and services as defined in section 1761 of the Civil Code;
  - (2) An individual who is an enrollee, a subscriber, or insured in a health-care service plan within the meaning of section 1345 of the Health and Safety Code or health-care insurance plan within the meaning of section 106 of the Insurance Code;
  - (3) An individual with a medical malpractice claim that is subject to the arbitration agreement; or
  - (4) An employee or an applicant for employment in a dispute arising out of or relating to the employee’s employment or the applicant’s prospective employment that is subject to the arbitration agreement.
- (f) “Dispute resolution neutral” means a temporary judge appointed under article VI, section 21 of the California Constitution, a referee appointed under Code of Civil Procedure section 638 or 639, an arbitrator, a neutral evaluator, a special master, a mediator, a settlement officer, or a settlement facilitator.
- (g) “Dispute resolution provider organization” and “provider organization” mean any nongovernmental entity that, or individual who, coordinates, administers, or provides the services of two or more dispute resolution neutrals. ~~“Provider organization” does not include a court.~~
- (h) “Domestic partner” means a domestic partner as defined in Family Code section 297.

- (i)** “Financial interest” means a financial interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 170.5.
- (ij)** “Gift” means a gift as defined in Code of Civil Procedure section 170.9(l).
- (jk)** “Honoraria” means honoraria as defined in Code of Civil Procedure section 170.9(h) and (i).
- (kl)** “Lawyer in the arbitration” ~~means the lawyer hired to represent a party in the arbitration. includes any lawyer present at the arbitration hearing or who is identified in any arbitration brief or other papers submitted to the arbitrator as representing a party for purposes of the arbitration.~~ means the lawyer hired to representing a party in the arbitration and any lawyer or law firm currently associated in the practice of law with a the lawyer hired to represent a party in the arbitration.
- (lm)** “Lawyer for a party” ~~includes any~~ means the lawyer hired to representing a party in the arbitration and any lawyer or law firm currently associated in the practice of law with a the lawyer hired to represent a party in the arbitration.
- (mn)** “Member of the arbitrator’s immediate family” ~~includes~~ means the arbitrator’s spouse or domestic partner (as defined in Family Code section 297) and any minor child living in the arbitrator’s household.
- (no)** “Member of the arbitrator’s extended family” ~~includes~~ means the members of the arbitrator’s immediate family and the parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, uncles, aunts, nephews, or and nieces of the arbitrator or the arbitrator’s spouse or domestic partner ~~(as defined in Family Code section 297)~~ or the spouse of such person.
- (op) [Party]**
- (1) “Party” means a party to the arbitration agreement:
- (A) Who seeks to arbitrate a controversy pursuant to the agreement;
  - (B) Against whom such arbitration is sought; or
  - (C) Who is made a party to such arbitration by order of a court or the arbitrator upon such party’s application, upon the application of any other party to the arbitration, or upon the arbitrator’s own determination.

- (2) “Party” includes the representative of a party, unless the context requires a different meaning.

~~(p)~~ “Party-arbitrator” means an arbitrator selected unilaterally by a party ~~and who is not expected to serve in an impartial manner.~~

~~(r)~~ “Private practice of law” means private practice of law as defined in Code of Civil Procedure section 170.5.

~~(s)~~ “Significant personal relationship” includes a close personal friendship.

### Comment to Standard 2

Subdivision (a). The definition of “arbitrator” and “neutral arbitrator” in this standard is intended to include all arbitrators who are to serve in a neutral and impartial manner and to exclude unilaterally selected arbitrators ~~who are to serve as advocates or in a partisan role.~~

Subdivisions (l) and (m). Arbitrators should take special care to note that two different terms are used in these standards to refer to lawyers who represent parties in the arbitration. In particular, arbitrators should note that the term “lawyer for a party” includes any lawyer or law firm currently associated in the practice of law with the lawyer hired to represent a party in the arbitration.

Subdivision (p)(2). While this provision generally permits an arbitrator to provide required information or notices to a party’s attorney as that party’s representative, a party’s attorney should not be treated as a “party” for purposes of identifying matters that an arbitrator must disclose under standard 7 or 8, as those standards contain separate, specific requirements concerning the disclosure of relationships with a party’s attorney.

Other terms that may be pertinent to these standards are defined in Code of Civil Procedure section 1280.

### Standard 3. Application and effective date

(a) Except as **otherwise** provided in this standard and ~~subdivision (b)(12) of standard 78~~, these standards apply to all persons who are appointed to serve as neutral arbitrators on or after July 1, 2002, in any arbitration under an arbitration agreement, if:

- (1) The arbitration agreement is subject to the provisions of title 9 of part III of the Code of Civil Procedure (commencing with section 1280); or
- (2) The arbitration hearing is to be conducted in California.

(b) These standards do not apply to:

- (1) Party arbitrators, as defined in these standards; or

- (2) Any arbitrator ~~acting~~ serving in:
- (A) An international arbitration proceeding subject to the provisions of title 9.3 of part III of the Code of Civil Procedure;
  - (B) A judicial arbitration proceeding subject to the provisions of chapter 2.5 of title 3 of part III of the Code of Civil Procedure;
  - (C) An attorney-client fee arbitration proceeding subject to the provisions of article 13 of chapter 4 of division 3 of the Business and Professions Code;
  - (D) An automobile warranty dispute resolution process certified under California Code of Regulations title 16, division 33.1;
  - (E) An arbitration of a workers' compensation dispute under Labor Code sections 5270 through 5277;
  - (F) An arbitration conducted by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board under Labor Code section 5308;
  - (G) An arbitration of a complaint filed against a contractor with the Contractors State License Board under Business and Professions Code sections 7085 through 7085.7; or
  - (H) An arbitration conducted under or arising out of public or private sector labor-relations laws, regulations, charter provisions, ordinances, statutes, or agreements.
- (c) Persons who are serving in arbitrations in which they were appointed to serve as arbitrators before July 1, 2002, are not subject to these standards in those arbitrations. Persons who are serving in arbitrations in which they were appointed to serve as arbitrators before January 1, 2003, are not subject to ~~subdivision (b)(12) of standard 78~~ in those arbitrations.

### **Comment to Standard 3**

With the exception of ~~subdivision (b)(12) of standard 78~~, these standards apply to all neutral arbitrators appointed on or after July 1, 2002, who meet the criteria of subdivision (a) ~~and who are to serve impartially, even arbitrators appointed unilaterally by one party~~. Arbitration provider organizations, although not themselves subject to these standards, should be aware of them when performing administrative functions that involve arbitrators who are subject to these standards. A provider organization's policies and actions should facilitate, not impede, compliance with the standards by arbitrators who are affiliated with the provider organization.



#### **Standard 4. Duration of duty**

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in these standards, an arbitrator must comply with these ethics standards from acceptance of appointment until the conclusion of the arbitration.
- (b) If, after the conclusion of the arbitration, a case is referred back to the arbitrator for reconsideration or rehearing, the arbitrator must comply with these ethics standards from the date the case is referred back to the arbitrator until the arbitration is again concluded.

#### **Standard 5. General duty**

An arbitrator must act in a manner that upholds the integrity and fairness of the arbitration process. He or she must maintain impartiality toward all participants in the arbitration at all times.

##### **Comment to Standard 5**

This standard establishes the overarching ethical duty of arbitrators. The remaining standards should be construed as establishing specific requirements that implement this overarching duty in particular situations.

Maintaining impartiality toward all participants during all stages of the arbitration is central to upholding the integrity and fairness of the arbitration. An arbitrator must perform his or her duties impartially, without bias or prejudice, and must not, in performing these duties, by words or conduct manifest partiality, bias, or prejudice, including but not limited to partiality, bias, or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or the fact that a party might select the arbitrator to serve as an arbitrator in additional cases. After accepting appointment, an arbitrator should avoid entering into any relationship or acquiring any interest that might reasonably create the appearance of partiality, bias, or prejudice. An arbitrator does not become partial, biased, or prejudiced simply by having acquired knowledge of the parties, the issues or arguments, or the applicable law.

#### **Standard 6. Duty to refuse appointment**

Notwithstanding any contrary request, consent, or waiver by the parties, a proposed arbitrator must decline appointment if he or she is not able to be impartial.

#### **Standard 7. Disclosure**

- (a) **[Intent]** This standard is intended to identify the matters that must be disclosed by a person nominated or appointed as an arbitrator. To the extent that this standard addresses matters that are also addressed by statute, it is intended to

include those statutory disclosure requirements, not to eliminate, reduce, or otherwise limit them.

**(db) [General provisions]** For purposes of this standard:

(21) (*Collective bargaining cases excluded*) The terms “cases” and “any arbitration” do not include collective bargaining cases or arbitrations conducted under or arising out of collective bargaining agreements between employers and employees or between their respective representatives.

(32) (*Offers of employment or professional relationship*) ~~If A~~an arbitrator has disclosed to the parties in an arbitration that he or she will entertain ~~is not required to disclose an offers of employment or of professional relationships from a party or lawyer for a party while the arbitration is pending in the arbitration or a lawyer or law firm that is currently associated in the private practice of law with a lawyer in the arbitration if the arbitrator has informed the parties about the offer and has sought their consent as required by subdivision (db) of standard 120, the arbitrator is not required to disclose to the parties in that arbitration any such offer from a party or lawyer for a party that he or she subsequently receives or accepts while that arbitration is pending.~~

(43) (*Names of parties in cases*) When ~~information, including names of parties, is disclosed about a case~~ an arbitrator makes disclosures about other pending or prior cases, in order to preserve confidentiality, it is sufficient to give the name of any party who is not a party to the pending arbitration as “claimant” or “respondent” if the party is an individual and not a business or corporate entity.

**(fc) [Time and manner of disclosure]** ~~Within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9(b)~~Within 10 calendar days of service of notice of the proposed nomination or appointment, a proposed ~~neutral~~ arbitrator must disclose to all parties in writing all matters listed in subdivisions (bd) and (ee) of this standard of which the arbitrator is then aware. ~~Except for matters described in subdivision (b)(12) of this standard, if~~ an arbitrator subsequently becomes aware of a matter that must be disclosed under either subdivision (bd) and (ee) of this standard, the arbitrator must disclose that matter to the parties ~~as soon as practicable, but in no event more than~~ in writing within 10 calendar days after the arbitrator becomes aware of the matter.

## MOVED DUTY OF INQUIRY TO NEW STANDARD 9

(b~~d~~) [Required disclosures] A person who is nominated or appointed as an arbitrator must disclose all ~~make a reasonable effort to inform himself or herself of any~~ matters that could cause a person aware of the facts to reasonably entertain a doubt that the proposed arbitrator would be able to be impartial, including all of the following ~~and must disclose all such matters to the parties. Matters that must be disclosed include:~~

- (1) (*Family relationships with party*) The arbitrator or a member of the arbitrator's immediate or extended family is a party, a party's spouse or domestic partner, or an officer, director, or trustee of a party.
- (2) (*Family relationships with lawyer in the arbitration*) The arbitrator, a ~~member of the arbitrator's extended family,~~ or the arbitrator's spouse, former spouse, domestic partner, child, sibling, or parent of the arbitrator or the arbitrator's spouse or domestic partner is:

(A) A lawyer in the arbitration. ~~For purposes of this paragraph only, "lawyer in the arbitration" includes a person who has served as a lawyer for or as an officer of a public agency and who personally advised or in any way represented the public agency concerning the factual or legal issues in the arbitration;~~  
**MOVED to 7(d)(7)**

(B) The spouse or domestic partner of a lawyer in the arbitration; or

(C) Currently associated in the private practice of law with a lawyer in the arbitration.

- (3) (*Significant personal relationship with ~~lawyer or party~~ lawyer for a party*) The arbitrator or a member of the arbitrator's immediate family has or has had a significant personal relationship with any party or a lawyer for a party.

- (4) (*Service as arbitrator for a party or lawyer for party*)

(A) The arbitrator is serving or, within the preceding five years, has served:

(Ai) As a neutral arbitrator in another ~~arbitration~~ prior or pending noncollective bargaining case involving a party to the current arbitration or a lawyer for a party; ~~if the arbitrator is serving or has served in this capacity, he or she must disclose the~~

~~information required by Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9(a)(4).~~

~~(Bii) As a party-appointed arbitrator in another arbitration prior or pending noncollective bargaining case for either a party to the current arbitration or a lawyer for a party; or if the arbitrator is serving or has served in this capacity, he or she must disclose the information required by Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9(a)(3).~~

~~(Ciii) As a neutral arbitrator in another arbitration prior or pending noncollective bargaining case in which he or she was selected by a person serving as a party-appointed arbitrator in the current arbitration. If the arbitrator is serving or has served in this capacity, he or she must disclose the information required by Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9(a)(4).~~

(B) [Case information] If the arbitrator is serving or has served in any of the capacities listed under (A), he or she must disclose:

(i) The names of the parties in each prior or pending case and, where applicable, the name of the attorney representing the party in the current arbitration who is involved in the pending case, who was involved in the prior case, or whose current associate is involved in the pending case or was involved in the prior case.

(ii) The results of each prior case arbitrated to conclusion, including the date of the arbitration award, identification of the prevailing party, the amount of monetary damages awarded, if any, and the names of the parties' attorneys.

(C) [Summary of case information] In addition, if the combined total number of the cases disclosed under (A), (B), and (C) is greater than five, the arbitrator must provide a summary of those cases that states:

(i) ~~†~~The total number of pending cases in which the arbitrator is currently serving served in each capacity.:

(ii) The number of prior cases in which the arbitrator previously served in each capacity.:

- (iii) The number of prior cases arbitrated to conclusion; and
  - (iv) The number of ~~such~~ prior cases in which the party to the current arbitration, or the party represented by the lawyer for a party in the current arbitration, or the party represented by the party-arbitrator in the current arbitration was the prevailing party.
- (5) (*Compensated service as other dispute resolution neutral*) The arbitrator is serving or has served as a dispute resolution neutral other than an arbitrator in another pending or prior noncollective bargaining case involving a party or lawyer for a party in the current arbitration or a lawyer who is currently associated in the private practice of law with a lawyer in the arbitration and the arbitrator has received or expects to receive any form of compensation for serving in this capacity.
- (A) [Time frame] For purposes of ~~subdivision (b)~~ this paragraph (5), “prior case” means any case in which the arbitrator concluded his or her service as a dispute resolution neutral within two years ~~prior to~~ before the date of the arbitrator’s proposed nomination or appointment, but does not include any case in which the arbitrator concluded his or her service before January 1, 2002.
- (B) [~~Information about cases involving payment~~ Case information] If the arbitrator ~~was or will be paid for serving in such a capacity is~~ serving or has served in any of the capacities listed under this paragraph (5), he or she must disclose:
- (i) The names of the parties in each prior or pending case and, where applicable, the name of the attorney in the current arbitration who is involved in the pending case, who was involved in the prior case, or whose current associate is involved in the pending case or was involved in the prior case;~~The number of pending and prior cases in which he or she was or will be paid for serving in each capacity for each party, lawyer in the arbitration, or other lawyer currently associated in the private practice of law with a lawyer in the arbitration; and~~
  - (ii) The dispute resolution neutral capacity (mediator, referee, etc.) in which the arbitrator is serving or served in the case; and
  - (iii) In each such case in which the arbitrator rendered a decision as a temporary judge or referee, the date of the decision, the

prevailing party, ~~the names of the parties' attorneys, and the~~  
amount of monetary damages awarded, if any, and the names of  
the parties' attorneys.

(C) [Summary of case information] If the total number of the cases disclosed under this paragraph (5) is greater than five, the arbitrator must also provide a summary of these cases that states:

(i) The number of pending cases in which the arbitrator is currently serving in each capacity;

(ii) The number of prior cases in which the arbitrator previously served in each capacity;

(iii) ~~¶~~The number of prior cases in which the arbitrator rendered a decision as a temporary judge or referee; and

(iv) ~~¶~~The number of such prior cases in which the party to the current arbitration or the party represented by the lawyer for a party in the current arbitration was the prevailing party.

#### **MOVED TO NEW STANDARD 9**

~~(D) [Services commenced prior to July 1, 2002] An arbitrator will be deemed to have complied with this requirement with respect to any such services commenced prior to July 1, 2002, if the arbitrator declares in writing that he or she has requested the required information from any dispute resolution provider organization administering those prior services and has disclosed all required information pertaining to those services within his or her knowledge.~~

(6) *(Current arrangements for prospective neutral service)* Whether the arbitrator has any current arrangement with a party concerning prospective employment or other compensated service as a dispute resolution neutral or is participating in or, within the last two years, has participated in discussions regarding such prospective employment or service with a party.

(67) *(Attorney-client relationships)* Any attorney-client relationship the arbitrator has or has had with a party or lawyer for a party. Attorney-client relationships include the following:

(A) ~~A party or a~~An officer, a director, or a trustee of a party is or, within the preceding two years, was a client of the arbitrator in the

arbitrator's private practice of law or a client of a lawyer with whom the arbitrator is or was associated in the private practice of law;

~~(B) A lawyer for a party is or, within the preceding two years, was a client of the arbitrator in the arbitrator's private practice of law; and~~

~~(B)~~ In any other proceeding involving the same issues, the arbitrator gave advice to a party or a lawyer in the arbitration concerning any matter involved in the arbitration; and

(C) The arbitrator served as a lawyer for or as an officer of a public agency that is a party and personally advised or in any way represented the public agency concerning the factual or legal issues in the arbitration.

(78) *(Other professional relationships)* Any other professional relationship not already disclosed under paragraphs (2)–(7) that the arbitrator or a member of the arbitrator's immediate family has or has had with a party or lawyer for a party. Professional relationships include the following:

(A) The arbitrator was associated in the private practice of law with a lawyer in the arbitration within the last two years;

~~(AB)~~ The arbitrator or a member of the arbitrator's immediate family is or, within the preceding two years, was an employee of or an expert witness or a consultant for a party; and

~~(BC)~~ The arbitrator or a member of the arbitrator's immediate family is or, within the preceding two years, was an employee of or an expert witness or a consultant for a lawyer in the arbitration; and.

~~(C) The arbitrator is, or, within the preceding two years, was associated in the private practice of law with a lawyer in the arbitration.~~

(89) *(Financial interests in party)* The arbitrator or a member of the arbitrator's immediate family has a financial interest in a party.

(910) *(Financial interests in subject of arbitration)* The arbitrator or a member of the arbitrator's immediate family has a financial interest in the subject matter of the arbitration.

~~(4011)~~*(Affected interest)* The arbitrator or a member of the arbitrator's immediate family has an interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the arbitration.

~~(4112)~~*(Knowledge of disputed facts)* The arbitrator or a member of the arbitrator's immediate or extended family has personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts relevant to the arbitration. A person who is likely to be a material witness in the proceeding is deemed to have personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts concerning the proceeding.

### **MOVED TO NEW STANDARD 8**

~~(12) *(Information about provider organization in consumer arbitrations)* In a consumer arbitration as defined in standard 2 in which the arbitrator was appointed on or after January 1, 2003, any significant past, present, or currently expected financial or professional relationship or affiliation between that dispute resolution provider organization and a party or lawyer in the arbitration.;~~

~~(A) [Provider organization and party or lawyer in arbitration]  
Information about the relationships or affiliations between the dispute resolution provider organization and a party or lawyer in the arbitration that must be disclosed under this paragraph include:~~

~~(i) The provider organization has a financial interest in a party.~~

~~(ii) A party, a lawyer in the arbitration, or a law firm with which a lawyer in the arbitration is currently affiliated is a member of or has a financial interest in the provider organization.~~

~~(iii) Within the preceding two years the provider organization has received a gift, bequest, or favor from a party, a lawyer in the arbitration, or a law firm with which a lawyer in the arbitration is currently affiliated.~~

~~(iv) The provider organization has entered into, or the arbitrator currently expects that the provider organization will enter into, an agreement or relationship with any party or lawyer in the current arbitration or a law firm with which a lawyer in the current arbitration is currently affiliated under which the provider organization will administer, coordinate, or provide dispute resolution services in other matters or will provide other consulting services for that party, lawyer, or law firm.~~



- ~~(v) The provider organization is coordinating, administering, or providing dispute resolution services or has coordinated, administered, or provided such services in another pending or prior case in which a party or lawyer in the current arbitration was a party or a lawyer.~~
- ~~(B) [Provider organization and arbitrator]. If a relationship or affiliation is disclosed under paragraph (12), the arbitrator must also provide information about the following:~~
  - ~~(i) Any financial relationship or affiliation the arbitrator has with the provider organization other than receiving referrals of cases;~~
  - ~~(ii) The provider organization's process and criteria for recruiting, screening, and training the panel of arbitrators from which the arbitrator in this case is to be selected;~~
  - ~~(iii) The provider organization's process for identifying, recommending, and selecting potential arbitrators for specific cases; and~~
  - ~~(iv) Any role the provider organization plays in ruling on requests for disqualification of the arbitrator.~~
- ~~(C) [Prior case, time frame]. For purposes of paragraph (A)(v), "prior case" means a case in which the dispute resolution neutral affiliated with the provider organization concluded his or her service within the two years before the date of the arbitrator's proposed nomination or appointment, but does not include any case in which the dispute resolution neutral concluded his or her service before July 1, 2002.~~
- ~~(D) [Case information]. If the provider organization is acting or has acted in any of the capacities described in paragraph (A)(v), the arbitrator must disclose the number of pending and prior cases involving each party or lawyer in the arbitration in which the provider organization is acting or has acted in such capacity. The arbitrator must also disclose the date of the decision, the prevailing party, the names of the parties' attorneys, and the amount of monetary damages awarded, if any, in each such prior case in which a dispute resolution neutral affiliated with the provider organization rendered a decision as an arbitrator, a temporary judge appointed~~

~~under article VI, § 4 of the California Constitution, or a referee appointed under Code of Civil Procedure sections 638 or 639.~~

~~(E) [Summary information about cases] If the total number of cases disclosed under paragraph (D) is greater than five, the arbitrator must also provide a summary that states the number of such prior cases in which a neutral affiliated with the provider organization rendered a decision as an arbitrator, a temporary judge, or a referee in which the party to the current arbitration or the party represented by the lawyer in the current arbitration was the prevailing party.~~

~~(F) [Reliance on information provided by provider organization]. Except as to the information in (B)(i), an arbitrator may rely on information supplied by the provider organization in making the disclosures required by subdivisions (b)(12)(A) and (B) of this standard. If the information that must be disclosed is available on the Internet, the arbitrator may comply with the obligation to disclose this information by providing the Internet address at which the information is located and notifying the party that the arbitrator will supply hard copies of this information upon request. **MOVED TO NEW STANDARD 9** An arbitrator will be deemed to have complied with the obligation to inform himself or herself of and to disclose the information required by subdivisions (b)(12)(A) and (B) of this standard if the arbitrator:~~

~~(i) Provides a written declaration stating that he or she has asked the dispute resolution provider organization for this information and identifying any category of information that the arbitrator was not able to obtain from the provider organization; and~~

~~(ii) Has disclosed all the information within his or her knowledge pertaining to the relationships between the provider organization and the parties and lawyers in the arbitration.~~

~~(G) [Reliance on representation that not a consumer arbitration] An arbitrator is not required to make the disclosures required by subdivision (b)(12) if he or she reasonably believes that the arbitration is not a consumer arbitration based on reasonable reliance on a consumer party's representation that the arbitration is not a consumer arbitration.~~

~~(H) [Effective date] The provisions of subdivision (b)(12) of this standard take effect on January 1, 2003. Persons who are serving in~~

~~arbitrations in which they were appointed to serve as arbitrators before January 1, 2003, are not subject to subdivision (b)(12) in those pending arbitrations.~~

(13) (*Membership in organizations practicing discrimination*). The arbitrator's membership in any organization that practices invidious discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. Membership in a religious organization, an official military organization of the United States, or a nonprofit youth organization need not be disclosed unless it would interfere with the arbitrator's proper conduct of the proceeding or would cause a person aware of the fact to reasonably entertain a doubt concerning the arbitrator's ability to act impartially.

(14) Any other matter that:

- (A) Might cause a person aware of the facts to reasonably entertain a doubt that the arbitrator would be able to be impartial;
- (B) Leads the proposed arbitrator to believe there is a substantial doubt as to his or her capacity to be impartial, including, but not limited to, bias or prejudice toward a party, lawyer, or law firm in the arbitration; or
- (C) Otherwise leads the arbitrator to believe that his or her disqualification will further the interests of justice.

**(ee) [Inability to conduct or timely complete proceedings]** In addition to the matters that must be disclosed under subdivision (~~bd~~), an arbitrator must also disclose:

- (1) If the arbitrator is not able to properly perceive the evidence or properly conduct the proceedings because of a permanent or temporary physical impairment; and
- (2) Any constraints on his or her availability known to the arbitrator that will interfere with his or her ability to commence or complete the arbitration in a timely manner.

**MOVED TO SUBDIVISION (b)**

**~~(d) — [General provisions]~~** ~~For purposes of this standard:~~

**MOVED TO NEW STANDARD 9**

- ~~(1) — (*Obligation regarding extended family relationships*) An arbitrator will be deemed to have complied with the obligation to inform himself or herself of and to disclose relationships involving his or her extended family and former spouse if the arbitrator (i) declares in writing that he or she has sought information about these relationships from the members of his or her immediate family and any members of his or her extended family living in his or her household and (ii) has disclosed all the information pertaining to these relationships within his or her knowledge.~~

**MOVED TO SUBDIVISION (b)**

- ~~(2) — (*Collective bargaining cases excluded*) The terms “cases” and “any arbitration” do not include collective bargaining cases or arbitrations conducted under or arising out of collective bargaining agreements between employers and employees or between their respective representatives.~~
- ~~(3) — (*Offers of employment or professional relationship*) An arbitrator is not required to disclose an offer of employment or professional relationship from a party or lawyer in the arbitration or a lawyer or law firm that is currently associated in the private practice of law with a lawyer in the arbitration if the arbitrator has informed the parties about the offer and has sought their consent as required by subdivision (d) of standard 10.~~
- ~~(4) — (*Names of parties in cases*) When information, including names of parties, is disclosed about a case, in order to preserve confidentiality, it is sufficient to give the name of any party who is not a party to the pending arbitration as “claimant” or “respondent” if the party is an individual and not a business or corporate entity.~~

- (ef) [Continuing duty]** An arbitrator’s duty to inform himself or herself of and disclose the matters described in subdivisions ~~(bd)~~ and ~~(ee)~~ of this standard, except those matters described in subdivision ~~(be)(1213)~~ of this standard, is a continuing duty, applying from service of the notice of the arbitrator’s proposed nomination or appointment until the conclusion of the arbitration proceeding. ~~With regard to matters enumerated in subdivision (be)(1213) of this standard, after making the initial disclosure required by subdivision (f) of this standard in an arbitration, an arbitrator does not have a continuing duty to inform himself or herself of or to disclose these matters in that arbitration.~~

**MOVED TO SUBDIVISION (c)**

- (f) [Time of disclosure]** ~~Within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9(b), a proposed neutral arbitrator must disclose all matters in subdivisions (b) and (c) of this standard of which the arbitrator is then aware.~~

~~Except for matters described in subdivision (b)(12) of this standard, if an arbitrator subsequently becomes aware of a matter that must be disclosed under either subdivision (b) and (c) of this standard, the arbitrator must disclose that matter to the parties as soon as practicable, but in no event more than 10 calendar days after the arbitrator becomes aware of the matter.~~

#### **Comment to Standard 7**

This standard requires arbitrators to disclose to all parties, in writing within 10 days of service of notice of their proposed nomination or appointment, all matters they are aware of at that time that could cause a person aware of the facts to reasonably entertain a doubt that the proposed arbitrator would be able to be impartial, and to disclose any additional such matters within 10 days of becoming aware of them.

Timely disclosure to the parties is the primary means of ensuring the impartiality of an ~~neutral~~ arbitrator. It provides the parties with the necessary information to make an informed selection of an ~~neutral~~ arbitrator by disqualifying or ratifying the proposed arbitrator following disclosure. See also standard 10, concerning disclosure and disqualification requirements relating to concurrent and subsequent employment or professional relationships between an arbitrator and a party or attorney in the arbitration. A party may disqualify an arbitrator for failure to comply with statutory disclosure obligations (see Code Civ. Proc., § 1281.91(a)). Failure to disclose, within the time required for disclosure, a ground for disqualification of which the arbitrator was then aware is a ground for vacatur of the arbitrator's award (see Code Civ. Proc., § 1286.2(a)(6)(A)).

The ~~neutral~~ arbitrator's overarching duty under this standard, which mirrors the duty set forth in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9, is to inform parties about matters that could cause a person aware of the facts to reasonably entertain a doubt that the proposed ~~neutral~~ arbitrator would be able to be impartial. While the remaining subparagraphs of (b~~d~~) require the disclosure of specific interests, relationships, or affiliations, these are only examples of common matters that could cause a person aware of the facts to reasonably entertain a doubt that the arbitrator would be able to be impartial. The absence of the particular interests, relationships, or affiliations listed in the subparagraphs does not necessarily mean that there is no matter that could reasonably raise a question about the arbitrator's ability to be impartial and that therefore must be disclosed. An arbitrator must make determinations concerning disclosure on a case-by-case basis, applying the general criteria for disclosure under paragraph (b~~d~~)).

Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.85 specifically requires that the ethical standards adopted by the Judicial Council address the disclosure of interests, relationships, or affiliations that may constitute conflicts of interest, including prior service as an arbitrator or other dispute resolution neutral entity. Section 1281.85 further provides that the standards "shall be consistent with the standards established for arbitrators in the judicial arbitration program and may expand but may not limit the disclosure and disqualification requirements established by this chapter [chapter 2 of title 9 of part III, Code of Civil Procedure, sections 1281–1281.95]."

Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9 already establishes detailed requirements concerning disclosures by arbitrators, including a specific requirement that arbitrators disclose the existence of any ground specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 170.1 for disqualification of a judge. This standard does not eliminate or otherwise limit those requirements; in large part, it simply consolidates and integrates those existing statutory disclosure requirements by topic area. This standard does, however, expand upon or clarify the existing statutory disclosure requirements in the following ways:

Moved to Standard 9 Comment

~~2~~ Expanding the existing duty of reasonable inquiry that applies with respect to financial interests under Code of Civil Procedure section 170.1(a)(3), to require arbitrators to make a reasonable effort to inform themselves about all matters that must be disclosed (subdivision (b)). The standards also clarify what constitutes a reasonable effort by an arbitrator to inform himself or herself about relationships of his or her extended family.

~~2~~ Requiring arbitrators to disclose to the parties as soon as practicable after its discovery any matter about which they become aware after the time for making an initial disclosure has expired, but in no event more than within 10 calendar days after the arbitrator becomes aware of the matter (subdivision (f)).

~~2~~ Expanding required disclosures about the relationships or affiliations of an arbitrator's family members to include those of an arbitrator's domestic partner (subdivisions (b)(1) and (2); see also definitions of immediate and extended family in standard 2).

~~2~~ Requiring arbitrators, in addition to making statutorily required disclosures regarding prior service as an arbitrator for a party or attorney for a party, to disclose prior services both as neutral arbitrator selected by a party arbitrator in the current arbitration and as any other type of dispute resolution neutral for a party or attorney in the arbitration (e.g., temporary judge, mediator, or referee) (subdivisions (b)(4)(C) and (5)).

~~2~~ Requiring the arbitrator to disclose if he or she or a member of his or her immediate family is or was an employee, expert witness, or consultant for a party or a lawyer in the arbitration (subdivisions (b)(7)(A) and (B)).

~~2~~ Requiring the arbitrator to disclose if he or she or a member of his or her immediate family has an interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the arbitration (subdivision (b)(10)).

Moved to Standard 8 Comment

~~2~~ In consumer arbitrations, requiring arbitrators to disclose their relationship with the dispute resolution provider organization that is administering the arbitration and any financial or professional relationship between the provider organization and any party, attorney, or law firm in the arbitration (subdivision (b)(12)).

If a disclosure includes information about five or more cases, requiring arbitrators to provide a summary of that information (subdivisions (b)(4) and, (5), ~~and (12)~~).

~~2~~ Requiring arbitrators to disclose membership in organizations that practice invidious discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation (subdivision (b)(13)).

~~2~~ Requiring the arbitrator to disclose any constraints on his or her availability known to the arbitrator that will interfere with his or her ability to commence or complete the arbitration in a timely manner (subdivision (e)).

~~2~~ Clarifying that the duty to make disclosures is a continuing obligation, requiring disclosure of matters that were not known at the time of nomination or appointment but that become known afterward (subdivision (f)).

Moved up to beginning of comment

~~2. Requiring arbitrators to disclose to the parties as soon as practicable after its discovery any matter about which they become aware after the time for making an initial disclosure has expired, but in no event more than 10 calendar days after the arbitrator becomes aware of the matter (subdivision (f)).~~

Moved to Standard 8 Comment

~~Subdivision (b). Currently expected relationships or affiliations that must be disclosed include all relationships or affiliations that the arbitrator, at the time the disclosure is made, expects will be formed. For example, if the arbitrator knows that the administering provider organization has agreed in concept to enter into a business relationship with a party, but they have not yet signed a written agreement formalizing that relationship, this would be a “currently expected” relationship that the arbitrator would be required to disclose.~~

It is good practice for an arbitrator to ask each participant to make an effort to disclose any matters that may affect the arbitrator’s ability to be impartial.

## **Standard 8. Additional disclosures in consumer arbitrations administered by a provider organization**

### **(Fa) [General provisions]**

~~(1)~~ *(Reliance on information provided by provider organization).* Except as to the information in ~~(Bc)(1)~~, an arbitrator may rely on information supplied by the administering provider organization in making the disclosures required by ~~subdivisions (b)(12)(A) and (B)~~ of this standard. If the information that must be disclosed is available on the Internet, the arbitrator may comply with the obligation to disclose this information by providing the Internet address at which the information is located and notifying the party that the arbitrator will supply hard copies of this information upon request.

~~(G2)~~ *(Reliance on representation that not a consumer arbitration)* An arbitrator is not required to make the disclosures required by this standard ~~subdivision (b)(12)~~ if he or she reasonably believes that the arbitration is not a consumer arbitration based on reasonable reliance on a consumer party’s representation that the arbitration is not a consumer arbitration.

**(b) [Additional disclosures required]** In addition to the disclosures required under standard 7, in a consumer arbitration as defined in standard 2(b) in which a dispute resolution provider organization is coordinating, administering, or providing the arbitration services, a person who is nominated or appointed as an arbitrator and the arbitrator was appointed on or after January 1, 2003, must disclose the following within the time and in the same manner as the disclosures required under standard 7(c): any significant past, present, or currently expected financial or professional relationship or

~~affiliation between that dispute resolution provider organization and a party or lawyer in the arbitration.~~

- (1) *(Relationships between the provider organization and party or lawyer in arbitration)* Any significant past, present, or currently expected financial or professional relationship or affiliation between the administering dispute resolution provider organization and a party or lawyer in the arbitration. Information ~~about the relationships or affiliations between the dispute resolution provider organization and a party or lawyer in the arbitration~~ that must be disclosed under this paragraph standard includes:

- (i) ~~The provider organization has a financial interest in a party.~~
- (iiA) A party, a lawyer in the arbitration, or a law firm with which a lawyer in the arbitration is currently affiliated associated is a member of ~~or has a financial interest in~~ the provider organization.
- (iiB) Within the preceding two years, the provider organization has received a gift, bequest, or favor from a party, a lawyer in the arbitration, or a law firm with which a lawyer in the arbitration is currently affiliated associated.
- (ivC) The provider organization has entered into, or the arbitrator currently expects that the provider organization will enter into, an agreement or relationship with any party or lawyer in the ~~current~~ arbitration or a law firm with which a lawyer in the ~~current~~ arbitration is currently affiliated associated under which the provider organization will administer, coordinate, or provide dispute resolution services in other noncollective bargaining matters or will provide other consulting services for that party, lawyer, or law firm.
- (vD) The provider organization is coordinating, administering, or providing dispute resolution services or has coordinated, administered, or provided such services in another pending or prior noncollective bargaining case in which a party or lawyer in the ~~current~~ arbitration is a party or a lawyer.

## MOVED TO (c)

- ~~(B) [Provider organization and arbitrator]. If a relationship or affiliation is disclosed under paragraph (12), the arbitrator must also provide information about the following:~~



- ~~(i) Any financial relationship or affiliation the arbitrator has with the provider organization other than receiving referrals of cases;~~
- ~~(ii) The provider organization's process and criteria for recruiting, screening, and training the panel of arbitrators from which the arbitrator in this case is to be selected;~~
- ~~(iii) The provider organization's process for identifying, recommending, and selecting potential arbitrators for specific cases; and~~
- ~~(iv) Any role the provider organization plays in ruling on requests for disqualification of the arbitrator.~~

~~(C) [Prior case, time frame].~~ For purposes of this paragraph ~~(A)(v)~~, “prior case” means a case in which the dispute resolution neutral affiliated with the provider organization concluded his or her service within the two years before the date of the arbitrator’s proposed nomination or appointment, but does not include any case in which the dispute resolution neutral concluded his or her service before July 1, 2002.

**(D2) [Case information]** ~~(Case information)~~ If the provider organization is acting or has acted in any of the capacities described in paragraph ~~(b)(1)(D)~~, the arbitrator must disclose ~~the number of pending and prior cases involving each party or lawyer in the arbitration in which the provider organization is acting or has acted in such capacity. The arbitrator must also disclose the date of the decision, the prevailing party, the names of the parties’ attorneys, and the amount of monetary damages awarded, if any, in:~~

- (A) The names of the parties in **each** prior or pending case and, where applicable, the name of the attorney in the current arbitration who is involved in the pending case or who was involved in the prior case;
- (B) The type of dispute resolution services (arbitration, mediation, reference, etc.) coordinated, administered, or provided by the provider organization in the case; and
- (C) In each such prior case in which a dispute resolution neutral affiliated with the provider organization rendered a decision as an arbitrator, a temporary judge appointed under article VI, § 4 of the California Constitution, or a referee appointed under Code of Civil Procedure sections 638 or 639, the date of the

decision, the prevailing party, the amount of monetary damages awarded, if any, and the names of the parties' attorneys.

~~(E3)~~ ~~[Summary of case information about cases]~~ ~~(Summary of case information)~~ If the total number of cases disclosed under paragraph (1)(D) is greater than five, the arbitrator must also provide a summary of these cases that states:

(A) The number of pending cases in which the provider organization is currently providing each type of dispute resolution services;

(B) The number of prior cases in which the provider organization previously provided each type of dispute resolution services;

~~(C)~~ ~~†~~ The number of ~~such~~ prior cases in which a neutral affiliated with the provider organization rendered a decision as an arbitrator, a temporary judge, or a referee; and

(D) The number of such prior cases in which the party to the current arbitration or the party represented by the lawyer in the current arbitration was the prevailing party.

~~(Bc)~~ **[Relationship between provider organization and arbitrator].** If a relationship or affiliation is disclosed under paragraph ~~(42b)~~, the arbitrator must also provide information about the following:

~~(i1)~~ Any financial relationship or affiliation the arbitrator has with the provider organization other than receiving referrals of cases, including whether the arbitrator has a financial interest in the provider organization or is an employee of the provider organization;

~~(ii2)~~ The provider organization's process and criteria for recruiting, screening, and training the panel of arbitrators from which the arbitrator in this case is to be selected;

~~(iii3)~~ The provider organization's process for identifying, recommending, and selecting potential arbitrators for specific cases; and

~~(iv4)~~ Any role the provider organization plays in ruling on requests for disqualification of the arbitrator.

## **MOVED TO (a) AND NEW STANDARD 9**

~~(F)~~ **[Reliance on information provided by provider organization].** Except as to the information in (B)(i), ~~an arbitrator may rely on information supplied by the provider~~

organization in making the disclosures required by subdivisions (b)(12)(A) and (B) of this standard. If the information that must be disclosed is available on the Internet, the arbitrator may comply with the obligation to disclose this information by providing the Internet address at which the information is located and notifying the party that the arbitrator will supply hard copies of this information upon request. An arbitrator will be deemed to have complied with the obligation to inform himself or herself of and to disclose the information required by subdivisions (b)(12)(A) and (B) of this standard if the arbitrator:

(i1) ~~Provides a written declaration stating that he or she has asked the dispute resolution provider organization for this information and identifying any category of information that the arbitrator was not able to obtain from the provider organization; and~~

(ii2) ~~Has disclosed all the information within his or her knowledge pertaining to the relationships between the provider organization and the parties and lawyers in the arbitration.~~

(G) ~~[Reliance on representation that not a consumer arbitration] An arbitrator is not required to make the disclosures required by subdivision (b)(12) if he or she reasonably believes that the arbitration is not a consumer arbitration based on reasonable reliance on a consumer party's representation that the arbitration is not a consumer arbitration.~~

**(Hd)[Effective date]** The provisions of subdivision (b)(12) of this standard take effect on January 1, 2003. Persons who are serving in arbitrations in which they were appointed to serve as arbitrators before January 1, 2003, are not subject to this standard subdivision (b)(12) in those pending arbitrations.

#### **Comment to Standard 8**

This standard only applies in consumer arbitrations in which a dispute resolution provider organization is administering the arbitration. Like standard 7, this standard expands upon the existing statutory disclosure requirements. Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.95 requires arbitrators in certain construction defect arbitrations to make disclosures concerning relationships between their employers or arbitration services and the parties in the arbitration. This standard requires arbitrators in all consumer arbitrations to disclose any financial or professional relationship between the administering provider organization and any party, attorney, or law firm in the arbitration and, if any such relationship exists, then the arbitrator must also disclose his or her relationship with the dispute resolution provider organization. This standard does not require an arbitrator to disclose if the provider organization has a financial interest in a party or lawyer in the arbitration or if a party or lawyer in the arbitration has a financial interest in the provider organization because provider organizations are prohibited under Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.92 from administering any consumer arbitration where any such relationship exists.

Subdivision (b). Currently expected relationships or affiliations that must be disclosed include all relationships or affiliations that the arbitrator, at the time the disclosure is made, expects will be formed. For example, if the arbitrator knows that the administering provider organization has agreed in concept to enter into a business relationship with a party, but they have not yet signed a written agreement formalizing that relationship, this would be a “currently expected” relationship that the arbitrator would be required to disclose.

## **Standard 9. Arbitrators’ duty to inform themselves about matters to be disclosed**

(a) **[General duty to inform him or herself]** A person who is nominated or appointed as an arbitrator must make a reasonable effort to inform himself or herself of matters that must be disclosed under standards 7 and 8.

(b) **[Obligation regarding extended family relationships]** An arbitrator ~~can fulfill~~ ~~will be deemed to have complied with~~ ~~his or her~~ ~~the~~ obligation under this standard to inform himself or herself of ~~and to disclose~~ relationships or other matters involving his or her extended family and former spouse that are required to be disclosed under standard 7 by if the arbitrator:

- (1) ~~declares in writing that he or she has sought~~ Seeking information about these relationships ~~or and~~ matters from the members of his or her immediate family and any members of his or her extended family living in his or her household; and
- (2) ~~Declaring in writing that he or she has made the inquiry in (1).has disclosed all the information pertaining to these relationships or other matters within his or her knowledge.~~

(c) **[Obligation regarding relationships with associates of lawyer in the arbitration]** An arbitrator ~~can fulfill~~ ~~the~~ obligation under this standard to inform himself or herself of relationships with any lawyer associated in the practice of law with the lawyer in the arbitration that are required to be disclosed under standard 7 by:

- (1) Informing the lawyer in the arbitration, in writing, of all such relationships within his or her knowledge and asking the lawyer if the lawyer is aware of any other such relationships;
- (2) Declaring in writing that he or she has made the inquiry in (1) and attaching to this declaration copies of his or her inquiry and any response from the lawyer in the arbitration.

(d) **[~~Services commenced prior to~~Obligation regarding service as a neutral other than an arbitrator before July 1, 2002]** An arbitrator ~~will be deemed to~~

~~have complied with this requirement with respect to any such services commenced prior to July 1, 2002, if the arbitrator declares in writing that he or she has requested the required information from~~can fulfill the obligation under this standard to inform himself or herself of his or her service as a dispute resolution neutral other than as an arbitrator in cases that commenced prior to July 1, 2002, by:

- ~~(1) Asking any dispute resolution provider organization administering that administered those prior services and has disclosed all required information pertaining to those services within his or her knowledge for this information; and~~
- ~~(2) Declaring in writing that he or she has made the inquiry in (1) and attaching to this declaration copies of his or her inquiry and any response from the provider organization.~~

(e) **[Obligation regarding relationships with provider organization]** ~~An arbitrator will be deemed to have complied with the obligation to inform himself or herself of and to disclose the information required by subdivisions (b)(12)(A) and (B) of this standard if the arbitrator can fulfill his or her obligation under this standard to inform himself or herself of the information that is required to be disclosed under standard 8 by:~~

- ~~(i) Provides a written declaration stating that he or she has asked~~ Asking the dispute resolution provider organization for this information; and
- ~~(2) Declaring in writing that he or she has made the inquiry in (1) and attaching to this declaration copies of his or her inquiry and any response from the provider organization. identifying any category of information that the arbitrator was not able to obtain from the provider organization; and~~
- ~~(ii) Has disclosed all the information within his or her knowledge pertaining to the relationships between the provider organization and the parties and lawyers in the arbitration and the relationship between the provider organization and the arbitrator.~~

#### **Comment to Standard 9**

~~2~~ This standard expands arbitrators existing duty of reasonable inquiry that applies with respect to financial interests under Code of Civil Procedure section 170.1(a)(3), to require arbitrators to make a reasonable effort to inform themselves about all matters that must be disclosed. This standard also clarifies what constitutes a reasonable effort by an arbitrator to inform himself or herself about specified matters, including relationships or other matters concerning his or her extended family and relationships

with attorneys associated in the practice of law with the attorney in the arbitration (such as associates encompassed within the term “lawyer for a party”).

## **Standard 810. Disqualification**

(a) An arbitrator is disqualified if:

- (1) The arbitrator fails to comply with his or her obligation to make disclosures~~make a required disclosure within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9(b)~~ and a party serves a notice of disqualification in the manner and within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.91;
- (2) The arbitrator complies with his or her obligation to make disclosures within 10 calendar days of service of notice of the proposed nomination or appointment~~makes a required disclosure within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9(b)~~ and, based on that disclosure, a party serves a notice of disqualification in the manner and within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.91;
- (3) ~~After the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9(b), an~~ The arbitrator makes a required disclosure more than 10 calendar days after service of notice of nomination or appointment and, based on that disclosure, a party serves a notice of disqualification in the manner and within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.91;
- (4) A party becomes aware that an arbitrator has made a material omission or material misrepresentation in his or her disclosure and, within 15 days after becoming aware of the omission or misrepresentation and within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.91(c), the party serves a notice of disqualification that clearly describes the material omission or material misrepresentation and how and when the party became aware of this omission or misrepresentation; or
- (5) If any ground specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 170.1 exists and the party makes a demand that the arbitrator disqualify himself or herself in the manner and within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.91(d).

(b) For purposes of this standard, “required obligation to make disclosure” means a disclosure required an arbitrator’s obligation to make disclosure under standard 7 or Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9.

- (c) Notwithstanding any contrary request, consent, or waiver by the parties, an arbitrator must disqualify himself or herself if he or she concludes at any time during the arbitration that he or she is not able to conduct the arbitration impartially.

#### **Comment to Standard 810**

Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.91 already establishes requirements concerning disqualification of arbitrators. This standard does not eliminate or otherwise limit those requirements or change existing authority or procedures for challenging an arbitrator's failure to disqualify himself or herself. The provisions of subdivisions (a)(1), ~~and (2)~~, and (5) restate existing disqualification procedures under section 1281.91(a), ~~and (b)~~, and (d) when an arbitrator makes, or fails to make, initial disclosures or where a section 170.1 ground exists. The provisions of subdivisions (a)(3) and (4) clarify the requirements relating to disqualification based on disclosure made by the ~~neutral~~ arbitrator after appointment or based on the discovery by the party of a material omission or misrepresentation in the arbitrator's disclosure.

#### **Standard 911. Duty to refuse gift, bequest, or favor**

- (a) An arbitrator must not, under any circumstances, accept a gift, bequest, favor, or honoraria from a party or any other person or entity whose interests are reasonably likely to come before the arbitrator in the arbitration.
- (b) From service of notice of appointment or appointment until two years after the conclusion of the arbitration, an arbitrator must not, under any circumstances, accept a gift, bequest, favor, or honoraria from a party or any other person or entity whose interests have come before the arbitrator in the arbitration.
- (c) An arbitrator must discourage members of his or her family residing in his or her household from accepting a gift, bequest, favor, or honoraria that the arbitrator would be prohibited from accepting under subdivisions (a) or (b).
- (d) This standard does not prohibit an arbitrator from demanding or receiving a fee for services or expenses.

#### **Comment to Standard 911**

Gifts and favors do not include any rebate or discount made available in the regular course of business to members of the public.

#### **Standard ~~10~~12. Duties and limitations regarding future professional relationships or employment**

- (a) **[Offers as lawyer, expert witness, or consultant]** From the time of appointment until the conclusion of the arbitration, an arbitrator must not

entertain or accept any offers of employment or new professional relationships as a lawyer, an expert witness, or a consultant from a party or a lawyer for a party in the pending arbitration ~~or a lawyer or law firm that is currently associated in the private practice of law with a lawyer in the arbitration.~~

- (b) **[Offers for other employment or professional relationships]** In addition to the disclosures required by standards s 7 and 8, within 10 calendar days of service of notice of the proposed nomination or appointment ~~the time specified in subdivision (b) of Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.9~~, a proposed arbitrator must disclose to all parties in writing ~~if whether or not, while that arbitration is pending~~, he or she will entertain offers of employment or new professional relationships in any capacity other than as a lawyer, expert witness, or consultant from a party, ~~a lawyer in the arbitration~~, or a lawyer for a party, ~~or law firm that is currently associated in the private practice of law with a lawyer in the arbitration while that arbitration is pending~~, including offers to serve as a dispute resolution neutral in another case. A party may disqualify the arbitrator based on this disclosure by serving a notice of disqualification in the manner and within the time specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.91(b).
- (c) **[Acceptance of offers prohibited unless intent disclosed]** If an arbitrator fails to make the disclosure required by subdivision (b) of this standard from the time of appointment until the conclusion of the arbitration ~~or if, in the disclosure made pursuant to subdivision (b), the arbitrator states that he or she will not entertain offers of employment or new professional relationships from the time of appointment until the conclusion of the arbitration~~, the arbitrator must not entertain or accept any such offers of employment or new professional relationships.
- (d) ~~**[Informed consent required in consumer arbitrations]**~~ If, in the disclosure made under subdivision (b), the arbitrator states that he or she will entertain offers of employment or new professional relationships, the arbitrator may entertain such offers. However, in consumer arbitrations, from the time of appointment until the conclusion of the arbitration, ~~the arbitrator must not accept any such offers without the informed consent of all parties to the current arbitration.~~
- ~~(1) Unless the arbitrator rejects the offer, within five days of receiving any such offer, the arbitrator in a consumer arbitration must notify the parties in writing of the offer and of the parties' right to object to the arbitrator accepting that offer within seven days.~~



- ~~(2) If within seven days after the arbitrator serves this written notice, no party objects to the arbitrator accepting the offer, the arbitrator may accept it.~~
- ~~(3) If an arbitrator has informed the parties in a pending arbitration about an offer and has sought the parties' consent as required by this subdivision, the arbitrator is not also required to disclose that offer under standard 7.~~
- ~~(4) An arbitrator is not required to seek the parties' consent under this subdivision if he or she reasonably believes that the arbitration is not a consumer arbitration based on reasonable reliance on a consumer party's representation that the arbitration is not a consumer arbitration.~~

**(ed) [Relationships and use of confidential information related to the arbitrated case]** An arbitrator must not at any time;

- (1) Without the informed written consent of all parties, enter into any professional relationship or accept any professional employment as a lawyer, an expert witness, or a consultant relating to the case arbitrated; or
- (2) Without the informed written consent of the party, enter into any professional relationship or accept employment in another matter in which information that he or she has received in confidence from a party by reason of serving as an arbitrator in a case is material.

**Standard ~~11~~13. Conduct of proceeding**

- (a) An arbitrator must conduct the arbitration fairly, promptly, and diligently and in accordance with the applicable law relating to the conduct of arbitration proceedings.
- (b) In making the decision, an arbitrator must not be swayed by partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism.

**Comment to Standard ~~11~~13**

Subdivision (a). The arbitrator's duty to dispose of matters promptly and diligently must not take precedence over the arbitrator's duty to dispose of matters fairly.

Conducting the arbitration in a procedurally fair manner includes conducting a balanced process in which each party is given an opportunity to participate. When one but not all parties are unrepresented, an arbitrator must ensure that the party appearing without counsel has an adequate opportunity to be heard and involved. Conducting the arbitration promptly and diligently requires expeditious management of all stages of the proceeding and concluding the case as promptly as the circumstances reasonably permit. During an arbitration, an arbitrator may discuss the issues, arguments, and evidence with the parties or

their counsel, to make interim rulings, and otherwise to control or direct the arbitration. This standard is not intended to restrict these activities.

The arbitrator's duty to uphold the integrity and fairness of the arbitration process includes an obligation to make reasonable efforts to prevent delaying tactics, harassment of any participant, or other abuse of the arbitration process. It is recognized, however, that the arbitrator's reasonable efforts may not successfully control all conduct of the participants.

For the general law relating to the conduct of arbitration proceedings, see chapter 3 of title 9 of part III of the Code of Civil Procedure, sections 1282–1284.2, relating to the conduct of arbitration proceedings. See also Code of Civil Procedure section 1286.2 concerning an arbitrator's unreasonable refusal to grant a continuance as grounds for vacatur of the award.

### **Standard ~~12~~14. Ex parte communications**

- (a) An arbitrator must not initiate, permit, or consider any ex parte communications or consider other communications made to the arbitrator outside the presence of all of the parties concerning a pending or impending arbitration, except as permitted by this standard, by agreement of the parties, or by applicable law.
- (b) An arbitrator may communicate with a party in the absence of other parties about administrative matters, such as setting the time and place of hearings or making other arrangements for the conduct of the proceedings, as long as the arbitrator reasonably believes that the communication will not result in a procedural or tactical advantage for any party. When such a discussion occurs, the arbitrator must promptly inform the other parties of the communication and must give the other parties an opportunity to respond before making any final determination concerning the matter discussed.
- (c) An arbitrator may obtain the advice of a disinterested expert on the subject matter of the arbitration if the arbitrator notifies the parties of the person consulted and the substance of the advice and affords the parties a reasonable opportunity to respond.

#### **Comment to Standard ~~12~~14**

See also Code of Civil Procedure sections 1282.2(e) regarding the arbitrator's authority to hear a matter when a party fails to appear and 1282.2(g) regarding the procedures that must be followed if an arbitrator intends to base an award on information not obtained at the hearing.

### **Standard ~~13~~15. Confidentiality**

- (a) An arbitrator must not use or disclose information that he or she received in confidence by reason of serving as an arbitrator in a case to gain personal

advantage. This duty applies from acceptance of appointment and continues after the conclusion of the arbitration.

- (b) An arbitrator must not inform anyone of the award in advance of the time that the award is given to all parties. This standard does not prohibit an arbitrator from providing all parties with a tentative or draft decision for review or from providing an award to an assistant or to the provider organization that is coordinating, administering, or providing the arbitration services in the case for purposes of copying and distributing the award to all parties.

#### **Standard ~~14~~16. Compensation**

- (a) An arbitrator must not charge any fee for services or expenses that is in any way contingent on the result or outcome of the arbitration.
- (b) Before accepting appointment, an arbitrator, a dispute resolution provider organization, or another person or entity acting on the arbitrator's behalf must inform all parties in writing of the terms and conditions of the arbitrator's compensation. This information must include any basis to be used in determining fees and any special fees for cancellation, research and preparation time, or other purposes.

#### **Standard ~~15~~17. Marketing**

- (a) An arbitrator must be truthful and accurate in marketing his or her services and must not make any representation that directly or indirectly implies favoritism or a specific outcome. An arbitrator must ensure that his or her personal marketing activities and any activities carried out on his or her behalf, including any activities of a provider organization with which the arbitrator is affiliated, comply with this requirement.
- (b) An arbitrator must not solicit business from a participant in the arbitration while the arbitration is pending.

#### **Comment to Standard ~~15~~17**

Subdivision (b). This provision is not intended to prohibit an arbitrator from accepting another arbitration from a party or attorney in the arbitration while the first matter is pending, as long as the arbitrator complies with the provisions of standard ~~10~~ 12 and there was no express solicitation of this business by the arbitrator.

#### **Drafter's Notes**

Standards 1–~~15~~17 implement Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.85, which requires the Judicial Council to adopt ethics standards for all neutral arbitrators serving in arbitrations

pursuant to an arbitration agreement. Among other things, they address the disclosure of interests, relationships, or affiliations that may constitute conflicts of interest, the acceptance of gifts, the establishment of future professional relationships, ex-parte communication, fees, and marketing.